

VZCZCXRO0258
PP RUEHPA
DE RUEHRY #0067/01 0241204
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 241204Z JAN 08
FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2099
INFO RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHMFISS/HQ USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE
RHMFISS/HQ USEUCOM VAHINGEN GE
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CONAKRY 000067

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/23/2018
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [ELAB](#) [KDEM](#) [ASEC](#) [GV](#)
SUBJECT: DIALOGUE COMMITTEE SET TO HOLD FIRST MEETING ON
JANUARY 29

REF: A. CONAKRY 0007

- [1](#)B. CONAKRY 0013
- [1](#)C. CONAKRY 0029
- [1](#)D. CONAKRY 0046

Classified By: POL/ECON CHIEF SHANNON CAZEAU FOR REASON 1.4 B AND D

[1](#)1. (C) SUMMARY. Most of the member institutions of Guinea,s Committee de Suivi have named their representatives and Guinean Government officials report that the committee will hold its first meeting on January 29. The committee will be led by the President of the National Assembly and organized by the Economic and Social Council. Strong links to the presidency and certain comments by committee organizers suggest that the committee could become a venue for detailing the failures of the consensus government, which could overshadow the unions' goal of reinforcing the powers delegated to the PM and the consensus government. END SUMMARY.

[1](#)2. (U) On January 23, Poloff met separately with Madame Guilao Josephine Lenaud, Vice President of Guinea,s Economic and Social Council (CES), and later with Michele Kamano, President of the CES. The CES is one of Guinea,s three republican institutions, which also includes the National Assembly and the Supreme Court. According to Kamano, the CES is an independent government agency responsible for fostering public-private dialogue and mediating between the private and public sectors.

BACKGROUND

[1](#)3. (U) On January 4, Guinea,s labor unions announced their intent to resume a nationwide labor strike on January 10. On the eve of the strike, the unions negotiated an agreement with the Guinean Government and other stakeholders wherein they agreed to postpone the strikes in return for a commitment to dialogue in order to review the January 27 Accords. They agreed to establish a Committee de Suivi to serve as a mechanism for this dialogue. As of January 17, only the labor unions had nominated representatives to serve on the committee (see reftels for further background).

FIRST MEETING PLANNED FOR JANUARY 29

[1](#)4. (SBU) In regards to progress towards the Committee de Suivi, Mme Lenaud said that all of the member institutions (reftel D), except the Patronat and the Council of Elders, had already submitted their nominations. Lenaud said that

the CES is sending out a letter on January 23 to all the institutions in order to thank those who have responded and to remind those who have not to submit their nominations.

Regardless of whether we receive the final nominations, we have already scheduled the opening meeting of the committee for January 29,, she said. Lenaud said that invitations to the opening will be distributed beginning January 24. According to Lenaud, it is important that the committee officially start its work and she did not foresee any problems in getting the last few institutions to specify their delegates.

REPUBLICAN INSTITUTIONS TAKE THE LEAD

15. (SBU) When asked about how the committee will be organized, Lenaud said that Aboubacar Sompore, President of the National Assembly, will preside over the committee as chair. She added that normally, the CES would fill that role, but because certain committee members are active within the CES (including union leaders Sera Rabiadou, Dr. Ibrahim Fofana, and Yamoudou Toure), it would be a conflict of interest for the CES to chair the committee. However, Lenaud said that the CES would act as the committee,s secretariat.

NO ONE IS EXCLUDED

16. (SBU) Poloff asked Lenaud why the political parties are not represented on the committee. Lenaud said that because the committee is tasked with reviewing the January 27 Accords, its membership includes only those stakeholders who actually signed the original Accords, and the political

CONAKRY 00000067 002 OF 002

parties were not signatories. However, Lenaud clarified that if the committee addresses specific political questions, the parties will be invited to attend. There is no reason to involve them in the economic questions., she said. As Poloff was leaving, Lenaud held her back and emphasized please tell the Ambassador that political parties are not excluded from this process. If we know anything it is that if we want to have a durable solution, we must listen to everyone.,

EVALUATING THE ACCORDS OR THE IMPLEMENTER?

17. (SBU) In response to a question regarding what role the committee is to play politically, Lenaud said that the committee,s job is to review the implementation of the January 27 Accords. Picking up on some veiled criticisms of Kouyate during the course of the discussion, Poloff asked Lenaud if the committee intends to evaluate the performance of the consensus government. Lenaud said technically, the committee is not evaluating the PM,s performance, but most of the Accords, provisions are things that the consensus government is responsible for implementing and we will be looking at whether these things have been effectively implemented.,

ACCORDS FIRST, THEN ELECTIONS

18. (SBU) Michel Kamano told poloff that there are two fundamental political problems in Guinea. First, we have a history of poor governance and second, we lack dialogue,, Kamano said. According to Kamano, the Guinean Government is particularly bad at communicating with the general population. People feel excluded politically,, he said.

19. (SBU) With respect to Guinea,s delayed legislative

elections, Kamano said that the elections will help solve some of the country's current problems. However, we must start with the Accords because this is the hottest issue right now,, Kamano said. He added We must address the Accords before the end of March, then put them behind us and focus on elections.,

EXCUSE ME MR. PM) WHY NO COUNCIL OF MINISTERS?

¶10. (SBU) Before closing the meeting, Kamano emphasized that the CES, main role is to serve as a mediator. Offering an example, Kamano pointed out that the PM has failed to hold a Council of Ministers meeting since the week of January 7. He noted that a meeting would normally take place on January 23 and that he planned to meet with the PM later in the day to ask if the meeting took place and if not, why not. Once I talk to the PM, I will go to the president and advise him,, Kamano said. (COMMENT. The PM reportedly held a Council of Ministers meeting on January 23. END COMMENT).

COMMENT

¶11. (C) The Committee de Suivi is increasingly looking like yet another venue for political machinations by various actors. With Sompere as the chair and the CES acting as the Secretariat, the committee has clear ties to the presidency.

SIPDIS

Thinly veiled criticisms of Kouyate were evident throughout the discussions with both Lemaud and Kamano, suggesting that the committee may be used by some actors as a mechanism for publicly illustrating how Kouyate has failed to deliver according to his mandate. Since the unions have traditionally been Kouyate's biggest supporters, this committee could end up backfiring on them if it is used to undermine Kouyate rather than to reinforce the powers delegated to the PM by the president. END COMMENT.
CARTER